



December 2009

Dear Consultee

**Joint consultation by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, Bar Standards Board and ILEX Professional Standards on advocacy standards**

We are pleased to publish the enclosed consultation paper on quality standards for criminal advocates. This paper represents a joint commitment between the SRA, BSB and ILEX Professional Standards to developing common standards that can be applied across our respective professions with a view to fostering consistent standards of advocacy throughout the legal profession.

We are attempting to develop common standards that can be applied to all advocates in all areas of practice. This will require ensuring that standards and their associated competencies are applicable in a wide range of contexts. This is a significant task and we therefore plan to undertake it incrementally starting where there has been greatest interest in the consistency of advocacy competence and performance, namely criminal practice. This consultation paper therefore seeks views on proposed common standards for criminal advocates.

Ensuring that advocates are practising to expected standards is fundamental to the justice system. The public must have confidence that their lawyer is competent to represent their best interests in court. The issues raised in this consultation paper therefore have wide reaching effects and we are keen therefore to hear from anyone who has views on the proposed advocacy standards.

The consultation paper will appear on our respective websites. The deadline for responses is 22 March 2010. The addresses for responses are:

Solicitors, solicitor firms and related organisations should reply to:

Advocacy Standards consultation  
Education and Training Unit  
Solicitors Regulation Authority  
Ipsley Court, Berrington Close  
Redditch  
B98 9TD  
Trainingconsultations@sra.org.uk

Barristers, Chambers, Specialist Bar Associations, Circuits and other Bar related organisations should reply to:

Oliver Hanmer  
Bar Standards Board  
289-293 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 7HZ  
ohanmer@barstandardsboard.org.uk

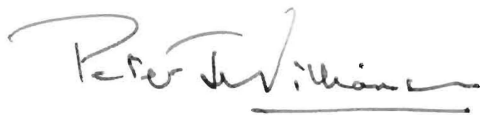
Legal executives and related organisations should reply to:

ILEX Professional Standards  
Luane Nesbit  
ILEX Professional Standards  
Kempston Manor, Kempston  
Bedford MK42 7AB  
info@ilexstandards.org.uk

Organisations that have an association with each of our bodies such as the Legal Services Commission, Ministry of Justice etc, should reply to the Bar Standards Board address. If you are unsure to whom you should respond please contact Oliver Hanmer at ohanmer@barstandardsboard.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your responses

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Williamson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Peter Williamson  
Chair, Solicitors Regulation Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Deech". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ruth Deech  
Chair, Bar Standards Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Kershaw". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Alan Kershaw  
Chair, ILEX Professional Standards